

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying symbols associated with an award; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, the front display device including:

a transparent liquid crystal display panel through which the variable display device is able to be seen; and

~~—— a light guiding plate disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate made up of a light transparent panel for guiding light emitted from a light source situated lateral to the light guiding plate to the entire of the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light guiding plate provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device in order to ensure visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device for displaying an image for effect while transparently displaying the symbols of the variable display device; and~~

a light guiding plate disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device,

wherein the light guiding plate is made up of a light transparent panel, the light guiding plate forming an opening in an area in which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device in order to ensure visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device; and

a lens cut for guiding the light emitted from a light source which is provided lateral of the light guiding plate to a rear side of the transparent display panel is formed at a portion other than the opening of the light guide.

21. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 20, further comprising:

a diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for equalizing the light to be emitted to the transparent liquid crystal display panel by diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet provided with an opening at a position corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate.

22. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 20, further comprising:

an illumination part disposed between a rear face of the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the illumination part for illuminating the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device so as to improve the visibility of the symbols displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate, the symbols having been variably displayed on the variable display device.

23. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 20, further comprising:

a reflection part disposed between the rear face of the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the reflection part for reflecting the light on the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the reflection part provided with an opening at a position opposed to the opening of the light guiding plate.